

From: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US
Sent: 1/12/2012 1:44:49 PM
To: Lisa Feldt/DC/USEPA/US@EPA; Bob Sussman/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
CC: Mathy Stanislaus/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Fw: Scranton Times Tribune: Dimock supporters to take water plea to EPA chief

You got it

----- Original Message -----

From: Lisa Feldt
Sent: 01/12/2012 11:53 AM EST
To: Bob Sussman; Betsaida Alcantara
Cc: Mathy Stanislaus
Subject: Re: Fw: Scranton Times Tribune: Dimock supporters to take water plea to EPA chief

Bob, thanks for sharing. Betsaida, can you add Mathy and I on to original distribution of press as it relates to Dimock. Many thanks

Lisa Feldt
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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From: Bob Sussman/DC/USEPA/US
To: Mathy Stanislaus/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Lisa Feldt/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/12/2012 09:23 AM
Subject: Fw: Scranton Times Tribune: Dimock supporters to take water plea to EPA chief

Robert M. Sussman
Senior Policy Counsel to the Administrator
Office of the Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
----- Forwarded by Bob Sussman/DC/USEPA/US on 01/12/2012 09:23 AM -----

From: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US
To: Windsor.Richard@epamail.epa.gov, Perciasepe.Bob@epamail.epa.gov, Sussman.Bob@epamail.epa.gov, "Shawn Garvin" <Garvin.Shawn@epamail.epa.gov>, "Brendan Gilfillan" <Gilfillan.Brendan@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: 01/12/2012 09:13 AM
Subject: Scranton Times Tribune: Dimock supporters to take water plea to EPA chief

Dimock supporters to take water plea to EPA chief

By Laura Legere (Staff Writer)

Published: January 12, 2012

Supporters of Dimock Twp. families at odds with a Marcellus Shale driller over water contamination plan to take their plea for fresh drinking water to the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson is scheduled to participate in a 9:30 a.m. talk about urban sustainability at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Dimock residents as well as environmental and public health advocates plan to rally outside beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The rally follows a letter sent by 26 doctors and health professionals to Ms. Jackson on Tuesday asking her to investigate contamination in Dimock and provide emergency drinking water to the residents. State officials have found that Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. allowed methane to seep from faulty Marcellus Shale natural gas wells into 18 Dimock water supplies - a contention Cabot denies. Recent tests of the residents' water wells have revealed other contaminants, including metals, surfactants, glycols and solvents.

After years of delivering replacement bulk and bottled water to the residents, Cabot received state approval to stop the deliveries on Dec. 1.

"We believe that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should step in to protect local residents if a driller jeopardizes drinking water supplies and the state government does not act," the doctors and health professionals wrote to Ms. Jackson.

The EPA seemed poised to provide such emergency water supplies last Friday when several agency officials called to arrange deliveries of bulk water to several Dimock residents whose methane-tainted well water the state has linked to nearby natural gas drilling.

EPA reversed course on Saturday and has said it has not made a decision to provide water.

Contact the writer: llegere@timeshamrock.com

----- Original Message -----

From: Betsaida Alcantara

Sent: 01/12/2012 09:04 AM EST

To: Richard Windsor; Bob Perciasepe; Bob Sussman; Shawn Garvin; Brendan Gilfillan

Subject: Scranton Times Tribune Editorial on Dimock

Editorial: Rudimentary regulation

January 12, 2011

The Corbett administration's top environmental officer contends that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is not "up to speed" regarding contaminated well water in Dimock Twp., Susquehanna County.

Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. has stopped delivering clean water to some residents in Dimock Twp. who contend that nearby gas drilling has fouled their wells. The state Department of Environmental Protection, headed by Michael Krancer, has signed off on that decision. The EPA has decided to resume investigating, prompting Mr. Krancer's assertion that the federal agency has only a "rudimentary" understanding of the situation.

Well, when it comes to the impacts of natural gas drilling, Michael Krancer, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, knows a great deal about not being "up to speed."

An analysis by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette has found that Mr. Krancer's agency does not have records for 495 wells that are producing or are about to produce gas.

By the DEP's own estimate, that's about 12 percent of all gas wells statewide, a substantial error rate given that the agency is supposed to craft permits and inspect every well.

Of those 495 wells, 182 do not even appear on the state's Marcellus Shale well permit list, raising the rudimentary question of how the agency is supposed to determine if those wells comply with permit conditions.

The DEP's failure to account for the wells will be even more problematic if the Legislature ever gets around to passing a severance tax or local impact fee on gas drilling. Any such levy would have to rely on the DEP data base.

Mr. Krancer's agency discovered last summer that Cabot improperly had constructed a well in Susquehanna County and that at least three nearby water wells had been contaminated as a result. Then, the agency violated its own policy by not publicly posting the information, at the same time it signed off on Cabot's controversial decision to stop water deliveries relative to the Dimock Twp. wells.

The EPA's Dimock Twp. inquiry is valid. Mr. Krancer should get his own agency up to speed.